

**House Business and Labor Committee**

PO Box 200400

Helena, MT 59620

March 3, 2011

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 3/3/2011  
SB 159

Madame Chair Arntzen and Members of the Committee,

As businesses in Montana's construction industry, we are concerned about the negative impacts to our industry of Senate Bill 159 (Sen. Jason Priest, "Revise energy efficiency and code adoption requirements in building codes"). Please vote NO on SB 159.

We all know, regardless of political party, that energy efficiency is the cheapest and quickest route to energy independence and long term housing affordability. Building codes play an important role in ratcheting down the cost of energy efficiency measures by setting industry-wide standards and driving market penetration of new practices and materials.

By mandating a 5 year payback on efficiency measures in buildings that should last more than 75 years, this bill puts an unprecedented limit on the potential cost savings built into our future housing stock. If this bill passes, Montana's building industry will lag behind the rest of the country and in the long run we'll be left with homes and offices that are less desirable and more expensive to operate. This bill stifles innovation in Montana's building industry.

A recent survey by the National Association of Realtors found that in the Mountain states, "rising electrical, fuel and other energy costs" was the number one factor homeowners identified that would force them to sell their home. We can't afford to build a new generation of houses that's expensive to live in.

If you believe in energy independence, a cutting edge building industry, and long term housing affordability, please vote NO on SB 159.

Sincerely,

- **Ed Adamson**, Bozeman Building Traditions, Bozeman
- **Jim Baerg**, Montana Energy+Design, Livingston
- **Bud Barta**, Barta Built, Lewistown
- **Molly Bradford**, Sustainable Building Systems, Missoula
- **Gray Davidson**, Davidson Builders, Bozeman
- **Jeff Downhour**, Anna Lindstrand, Gretchen Krumm, Mosaic Architecture, Helena
- **Matthew Flanick**, Butte Insulation, Butte
- **Len Ford**, Ford Construction, Kalispell
- **Mike Gardner**, Target Energy Systems, Helena
- **Randy Hafer**, High Plains Architects, Billings
- **Steve Loken**, Loken Builders, Helena
- **Tammy Minge**, Frog Rock Design (Architect), Bozeman
- **John Palm**, Bozeman Green Builders, Bozeman
- **Bill Schwahn**, Montana Energy Consultants, Bozeman
- **Diane Yarus**, Airworks Heating & Cooling, Kalispell

**Stand up for Energy Efficiency: Vote NO on SB 159**